

KEESLER NEWS

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Keesler welcomes 2 new leaders

2nd Air Force – Gould

81st TRW – Capasso

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould took command of 2nd Air Force with these words Nov. 9: "I am so excited to be here as there is no more vital or noble mission than training our replacements, and that is what 2nd Air Force is all about."

The ceremony at the parade field was officiated by Gen. William Looney, commander of Air Education and Training Command.

General Gould comes to Keesler from the Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, where he served as the commander of 3rd Air Force.

"Arriving here from Europe and spending time throughout many European countries and all through Africa, visiting with leaders, heads of state, chiefs of air forces, they were quick to show off their superstar airmen," General Gould said. "Most times those airmen had been trained in a 2nd Air Force training program of some sort and were back leading their respective air forces."

"At the same time as we traveled through Europe, we saw Airmen just like you out there in formation, well trained, enthusiastic and excited to be serving. Again, they all got their training at 2nd Air Force."

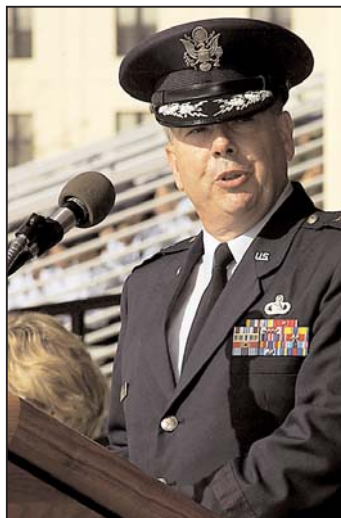
General Gould, who's had previous assignments in AETC, said repeatedly he's happy to return to the training mission.

"I pledge to do everything we can to continue the good work that is already in place," he said. "We will listen closely to the warfighters' needs, and we'll produce the right type of Airmen with the right skills to continue the war on terrorism and produce everything the Air Force needs."

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General Gould



General Capasso

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Tuesday's change-of-command ceremony for the 81st Training Wing felt more like a homecoming than a new assignment to Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso.

The new commander is no stranger to Keesler — he attended the basic communications-electronics course in 1979, the telecommunications staff officer course in 1984-85 and the Air Force Institute of Technology off-site at the University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler in 1985.

"The opportunity to command is a privilege, and with this privilege comes great responsibility — to our nation and to our community partners with whom we serve, the responsibility to foster our Air Force traditions, values and warrior culture, and more importantly, the responsibility to lead the men and women who are the heart and soul of our profession, the profession of arms," General Capasso said after accepting command from Brig. Gen. William Lord.

Keesler's new leader acknowledged he's filled with excitement about his new job.

"Combat readiness and the unwavering commitment to the highest standards of professionalism will always be the foundation of what we do and who we are," he stated. "The 81st Training Wing is responsible for building that foundation. You're the ones that transform those 10 words that make up our Air Force core values — integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do."

General Capasso noted Keesler's track record, particularly since Hurricane Katrina devastated the base 11 weeks ago, speaks for itself.

"Despite your personal losses and sacrifices and the training mission setbacks from Hurricane Katrina, you've seen every challenge as an opportunity and

Please see **Capasso**, Page 9

COMMENTARY

Don't perpetuate problems — step forward, fix them

By Maj. Tony Williams

332nd Training Squadron commander

How many times have you seen someone doing something you know is wrong, but you let it slide?

Your thought might be, "It's so obvious, someone's probably already said something to them about it. I don't need to beat a dead horse." Or maybe you chose not to do what was needed because it was a friend of yours or a coworker and you didn't want to embarrass or upset them. If either of those reasons were what you thought — you're just as guilty as the person committing the act.

As an Air Mobility Command-trained "zipper-suited sun god" (a term lovingly bestowed on flyers by non-flyers), I went 12 years without wearing the battle dress uniform. When I was assigned to Air Education and Training Command, I was the only flyer in my squadron. I figured I'd try to fit in by wearing my flight suit less and my BDUs more.

After more than two months of rolling up my BDU sleeves wrong, someone finally told me about it. When I asked some of my squadron mates about this, their response was, "I figured someone had already told you about it," and, "Sir, we didn't want to embarrass you."

Within two minutes of being told about my mistake, I corrected it, as I'm sure many of you would. I didn't give someone the chance to beat the dead horse. I wasn't embarrassed by someone pointing out my mistake — I was embarrassed that I'd worn the uniform wrong for more than two months.

I take full responsibility for the mistake, because I was the one wearing my uniform wrong. However, those who saw me and said nothing perpetuated that wrong.

Not only does my embarrassing story illustrate a perpetuated problem, it also shows one important aspect of honest feedback: being too polite or nice to address an issue doesn't make the issue go away.

I don't want to trivialize the importance of wearing the uniform properly, but apply my example to some things that are even more important:

If you witness sexual harassment, don't let it go because you may embarrass someone.

If you see a fellow Airman has had too many drinks and is about to get behind the wheel, don't take it for granted someone else is going to step in and takes his keys.

Make sure in your daily routine you don't become part of a problem by perpetuating it. Become the solution. Fix it.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

Chafing over chapel

Comment — An article in the Keesler News dated Oct. 6 talked about the chapel receiving funds for Katrina victims.

Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Butler stated, "We've brainstormed to figure out the most creative ways to use the money so we can have the biggest impact."

Does that include paying on two contracts worth more than \$80,000 per year? That's what the chapel pays a youth coordinator and singles coordinator, each of whom works less than 30 hours a month. The payments come from the tithes and offerings.

The chapel was already hurting financially because of these contracts. Now I'm afraid the money intended for the hurricane victims will be used to pay for these two positions.

Response — Chapel contractors are providing high-quality work in keeping with the terms of the contracts.

Only one of the contracts you mention is paid from tithes and offerings. The amount is about one-half of your figures.

All of the relief funds are being distributed directly to Keesler personnel who suffered storm-related losses or are used to support programs for Keesler personnel.

Native American Heritage Month

Remembering their contributions throughout our history

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Potter

338th Training Squadron

November is filled with holidays and remembrances.

Friday, we remembered our many veterans who sacrificed so much to protect us through America's many wars. In another week, we'll enjoy Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. This is also the month we honor Native Americans, the first people to establish themselves on this great continent.

As we observe Native American Heritage Month, we're reminded of the contributions they have made.

George Washington valued Native Americans as scouts and light infantry in his

armies during America's war for independence from Great Britain.

During the Civil War, Native Americans served the armies of both the North and South as scouts.

In his Rough Rider days, Theodore Roosevelt incorporated Native Americans into that force to help him fight the Spanish in Cuba.

Native Americans served with Gen. John "Blackjack" Pershing as he scoured the southwest for the Mexican bandit Pancho Villa in 1916.

An estimated 12,000 Native Americans enlisted to fight during World War I. Four of them from the 142nd Infantry were awarded the

Croix de Guerre and others the Church War Cross for their gallantry.

During World War II, 44,000 Native Americans fought in the European and Pacific theaters. Their families contributed more than \$50 million in war bonds and supported Red Cross and Army and Navy societies.

Another 42,000 Native Americans went to war in Vietnam.

Literally thousands of Native Americans defended this country on its battlefields and supported it on the home front throughout our history. We can do no less than be eternally thankful for their devotion, dedication and sacrifices.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Senior Airman Mario Ibarra, left, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, and Tech Sgt. George Coehler, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, secure a broken leg on a mannequin representing an injured pilot during a self-aid and buddy care exercise at predeployment training, Nov. 7-10. Sixty members of the 81st Medical Group participated.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Col. Tim Halligan, 81st Dental Squadron, crawls under simulated barbed wire at the obstacle course during combat skills training.

Medics sharpen deployment skills



Staff Sgt. Stephen Hicks, left, 81st Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates search techniques on Capt. Robert Colella, 81st MSGS, during a challenge training exercise.



Col. Dave Rhodes, 81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron, learns how to disassemble his firearm during the weapons familiarization review.



Airman 1st Class Aaron Gunn, left, 81st Medical Support Squadron, and Capt. Kim Vollmer, 81st MDOS, practice urban terrain military operations in Oak Park housing area. Oak Park was heavily damaged during Hurricane Katrina, and smoke generators and pre-recorded ground-burst simulations were used to add realism to the training scenario.

PME process enhances opportunities for officers

By Staff Sgt. Carla Williams

5th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

MINOT Air Force Base, N.D. — The Air Force professional military education process has developed grade-related education and education opportunities that support specific jobs for officers.

“On the enlisted side, the Air Force has long had a continuity of PME programs that are associated with rank advancement, but you also have courses based on job and level of responsibility such as the First Sergeant’s Academy,” said Maj. Gen. Bob Elder Jr., Air War College commandant and Air University vice commander, during a recent visit here.

“We are now expanding this dual approach — rank and position education — with the officer corps,” he said.

General Elder, who commanded the

5th Bomb Wing here from 1996 to 1998, said the war college is currently enhancing senior development education courses.

“The new AWC program features an SDE distance-learning course, concentrating on institutional leadership — particularly within the Air Force — for all upcoming colonels,” said the general, who has been the AWC commandant since July 2004.

“We also have a resident warfighting course, focused on joint and coalition operations, that will be fully accredited as a joint-PME Phase II course,” he added. “This means graduates of the warfighting course will have the PME credit required for assignment as joint-specialty officers.”

The SDE courses now focus on the continued development of strategic leader skills.

“Strategic leader is a widely used term in the business community for top executives who are known for their critical analysis, creative thinking, decision making, and planning skills,” said the general. “We’re focusing on these executive skills and cross-cultural communication capabilities to ensure Air Force senior leaders have the ability to lead our own people as well as communicate with other Services and coalition forces.”

General Elder sees many PME changes on the horizon.

“We’re now spending time focusing on cross-cultural negotiations, not just looking at different countries but also cultural differences between our own military services — changes made essential by the changing nature of war. That’s a big shift,” he said.

“The other big issue is working with

other agencies, not only government agencies but also non-government agencies,” he added. “To aid this, our new courses will spend more time looking at how we bring all instruments of national power together.”

He also said PME’s focus is shifting toward continuous learning, with continuous reinforcement and re-learning of evolving Air Force and joint doctrine.

“We don’t want people to think PME is finished once they complete a course — PME is something done throughout one’s professional lifetime,” he explained. “To enable this, we want to make it easier with something we call booster shots. For example, we envision company grade officers will take a pre-squadron officer school class that will look at Air Force doctrine, personal communication skills, and group and team leadership dynamics.”

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Winter classes

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler offers a winter term Nov. 28-Feb. 24.

Web registration is available for currently enrolled students.

Registration is also available by appointment in the office, Room 214, old Cody Hall for active duty.

Students taking English composition I, oral communications or mathematics for the first time are required to have an assessment of skills.

For more information, call 377-2287.

CCAF postponement

Tuesday's Community College of the Air Force graduation is being combined with the spring ceremony.

The postponement is due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Becky Green, education office, 377-2323.

Testing resumes

Testing has resumed for all programs administered by the education office.

Make appointments in Room 212, old Cody Hall or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Testing is in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees assigned to Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

Physical therapy class

Applications are accepted through Nov. 25 at the Air Force Personnel Center for the doctor of physical therapy program.

The class begins Dec. 17 at the Health Sciences Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ravin McCray, 377-9630.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual

Education Center, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts, track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm>.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Base realignment, closure recommendations take effect

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations for reshaping the Defense Department's infrastructure and force structure took effect at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 8.

Congress allowed the commission recommendations to pass into law at the mandated deadline.

The nine-member BRAC panel delivered its final report to President George Bush Sept. 8. He, in turn, sent it to Congress for legislative review Sept. 15. Congress had 45 legislative days — until Nov. 9 — to accept or reject the report in its entirety.

Implement in 2 years

By statute, the Defense Department now has until Sept. 15, 2007 — two years from the date the president sent Congress the BRAC commission's final report — to begin closing and realigning the installations as called for in the report. The process must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011, DOD officials said.

The 2005 BRAC recommendations represent the most aggressive BRAC ever proposed, affecting more than 800 installations, officials said.

Significant savings

The four previous BRAC rounds — in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 — resulted in 97 major closures, 55 major realignments and 235 minor actions, according to DOD figures.

Overall, closing and realigning these installations saved taxpayers around \$18 billion through fiscal 2001 and a further \$7 billion per year since, officials said.

BRAC 2005 is being called an important milestone in restructuring the department's domestic base structure to



improve efficiency and operational capabilities. It also supports plans to move thousands of U.S. forces — currently serving overseas — to within the United States as part of DOD's new global positioning strategy, officials said.

After months of study, installation visits and public hearings around the country, the BRAC panel approved 86 percent of DOD's original recommendations — 119 with no change and another 45 with amendments, the panel said.

The panel also rejected 13 recommendations, significantly modified another 13, and made five additional closure or realignment recommendations on its own initiative.

Of DOD's 33 major closure recommendations, the panel approved 21, recommended seven bases be realigned rather than closed, and rejected five recommendations outright.

In addition, the commission recommended closing rather than realigning another installation, for a total of 22 major closures.

Many of the transformational recommendations in the report, particularly those to establish joint operations, will present significant challenges as they are implemented, officials acknowledged.

Detailed business plans are developed for every BRAC

recommendation, laying out what actions are required to implement them, when they occur and what resources are needed to put them into effect, officials said.

Affected services and agencies must submit these plans by Nov. 15 to the DOD Installation Capabilities Council, which reviews them and forward them to the Infrastructure Steering Group for approval.

Assistance in place

Meanwhile, the department is poised to begin working with civilian employees and communities affected by the BRAC decisions.

DOD has a long and successful history of helping its civilian workers impacted by base closings, officials noted. This includes programs that promote placement, training, retraining and transition to new positions.

Civilian reductions

Since 1989, DOD has reduced its civilian work force by 428,400 people, with less than 10 percent of those reductions through involuntary separations, officials said.

The department's Priority Placement Program — which officials call the centerpiece of DOD's Civilian Assistance and Reemployment programs — gives defense employees placement priority at other DOD facilities.

The department's Office of Economic Adjustment will take the lead for the federal government in helping communities affected by base closures and realignments, working cooperatively with the President's Economic Adjustment Committee.

A community conference, Nov. 28 through Dec. 1 in Baltimore, focuses on many of the issues involved in BRAC 2005 and the programs available to address them.

IN THE NEWS

Thanksgiving work schedule shift

Friday's compressed work schedule "down day" has been switched with Nov. 25, giving Keesler a four-day weekend for Thanksgiving.

Earlier this year, Air Education and Training Command designated Nov. 25 as a family day. Mission permitting, squadron commanders may grant the family day to military members before Feb. 1.

E-mail upgrade this weekend

AETC News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Saturday and Sunday, Air Education and Training Command Microsoft Exchange e-mail users won't be able to view any non-AETC destinations in their global address list pulldown menus.

While other commands disappear from AETC e-mail systems, AETC disappears from other commands' GALs during the migration to a new, upgraded Microsoft Exchange system.

All Air Force addresses should be back in the e-mail system by Monday. After the address book change, some e-mail users may experience delivery problems when sending e-mail. These problems can be fixed by redressing the e-mail from the new address list.

Myers receives Medal of Freedom

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — President George Bush presented retired Air Force Gen. Richard Myers the Presidential Medal of Freedom during a White House ceremony Nov. 10.

General Myers, who stepped down as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Sept. 30, was one of 14 Americans honored with the nation's highest civilian award.

Pandemic flu Web site

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department went "live" Nov. 8 with a Web site to help meet the objectives outlined in President George Bush's national strategy for pandemic influenza.

The address is <http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil>

The site offers information about pandemic flu and avian flu. It has a section of frequently asked questions, a glossary of important terms and health-related information. The site also includes links to other federal government agencies.

The site also has a section with information for service members, such as DOD's role in dealing with avian flu, the risks for service members overseas and protective measures to take.

Early Keesler News deadline

The deadline for submissions is four days earlier than usual for the Thanksgiving week issue of the Keesler News.

The deadline for the Thanksgiving week issue is noon today. That issue is actually published Wednesday, one day earlier than usual, due to the Thanksgiving Day federal holiday Nov. 24.

The newspaper office is closed Nov. 24 in observance of the holiday.

New personnel system moves closer to reality

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The National Security Personnel System, which goes on line soon, provides a more performance- and market-based system of hiring, pay and evaluation.

With NSPS, Department of Defense civilians can influence the amount of money they receive by their performance, their value to the organization and their mission accomplishment contributions, said Sharon Seymour, the Air Force associate director of personnel plans and integration for NSPS.

She said NSPS is a positive change because employees have more control

over their advancement and pay, versus being tied to a time-based system.

Currently, a 30-day congressional notification period is under way, which ends this month. After the 30-day notification period, the NSPS labor system becomes effective and DOD employees fall under the new labor law.

DOD requests input from union representatives regarding the details of pay banding, staffing, performance management and other aspects of the new system. This period is called continuing collaboration and is expected to end in January, Ms. Seymour said.

Implementation of the NSPS then begins and continue throughout the year. On-site training for supervisors

and employees is part of the NSPS implementation plan. By March, the Air Force expects 50,000 employees to be covered under the NSPS, Ms. Seymour said.

"Under the current system, employees receive incremental pay raises annually and within-grade pay raises after a certain number of years," Ms. Seymour said. "One of the best things NSPS will do for the Air Force is allow good employees to flourish under this system."

Under NSPS, classification is simplified and streamlined and includes broad groupings of occupations based on the nature of work, career patterns and market factors. These groupings

are called "pay bands." These pay schedules replace the current General Schedule and, eventually, the wage system pay schedule.

"As we move toward implementation, civilians will receive more information about where they fit in the pay schedules under NSPS," Ms. Seymour said.

Civilian employees moved under NSPS won't take a pay cut and most receive an increase in pay when the implementation takes place, according to Ms. Seymour.

"Many employees will receive a pay increase equal to the amount they have earned towards their next within-grade increase," Ms. Seymour said.

Gould,

from Page 1

General Gould said he visited Keesler about a month after Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast in August, and was pleasantly surprised to see the current state of the base.

"I could not grasp the amount and degree of devastation until I actually saw it," he said. "When we arrived Monday, we were so excited to see the progress you have made."

"I know being as close to it as you are you may not appre-

ciate that sometimes, but we saw people out cleaning up. Looking at the condition of the base and the areas outside of the gate, things are coming along and will continue to come along. As the sign that we saw on I-10 to Biloxi says, 'Together we will rebuild our community.'

"The only way I know to do that is to maintain a good balance and perspective," the general said. "That means for all of us to continue to give thanks to our God for those abilities and talents and the opportunity to serve our country."

"We must all also make a concise effort to take care of

our families who are so key to everything we do. We must take care of ourselves to maintain a good balance, through our unit physical training and in our own efforts to take care of ourselves."

"Finally," he added, "we have to have fun at what we're doing. We must work hard and at the same time, we must play hard; and together, we look forward to leading you into that."

General Gould replaces Maj. Gen. Chip Utterback, whose new assignment is as the deputy commander of Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Capasso,

from Page 1

every hardship as a chance to overcome adversity, thereby establishing new standards of excellence," he said.

"The road ahead is clear," General Capasso continued. "Focusing on the needs of our people, recovery of our vital assets and community outreach will be our priorities."

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould, who assumed command of 2nd Air Force at Keesler Nov. 9, officiated this week's ceremony.

"I think you'd all agree with me that you got your money's worth with Bill and Cindy Lord," General Gould said.

"Your tour here at Keesler will forever be defined by Katrina, but it's clear to me that you succeeded because of what you did during those earlier months at Keesler — the foundation you laid in modernizing the base's infrastructure, improving key processes and compassion for your people and our neighbors in the community," the 2nd Air Force commander added.

General Gould said General Capasso, his wife Laura and their 6-year-old daughter, Claire, arrived from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., "with a bright outlook and energetic spirit — they're exactly the right team to pick up where the Lords left off."

General Gould also gave the Keesler community a heads-up about its new commander.

"You're going to love this guy as a leader, a commander and a neighbor," he said. "But don't let his easy smile and laid-back demeanor fool you — Paul Capasso is as smart as a whip, bold and decisive and as intuitive as anyone you'll ever know."

Before assuming command of the 81st TRW, General Capasso was director of command, control, communications and computer systems for U.S. Transportation Command at Scott.

General Lord, Keesler's commander since April 2004, assumes the rank of major general in his new position as director of information, services and integration, Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and chief information officer at the Pentagon.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Fiscal 2006 CJR quotas

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force announced the fiscal 2006 quotas for the career job reservation program recently, adding three Air Force Specialty Codes to the constrained list, while releasing 13 others.

Reenlistment-eligible first-term Airmen who apply for a CJR in the constrained AFSCs are added to a waiting list and compete for monthly quotas based on a rank order process.

All first-term Airmen must be selected for reenlistment by their commander under the Selective Reenlistment Program to apply for a CJR and must have a CJR to reenlist.

Airmen serving in any of the constrained career fields aren't allowed to reenlist without a CJR unless they're approved for a special duty or retrain into another specialty.

Those who applied for retraining but weren't selected, and don't receive a CJR in their current AFSC at the end of their CJR window, may re-apply for retraining or a special duty no later than 30 days after the end of their CJR window. Otherwise, they're projected for separation.

Quotas for constrained AFSCs are posted monthly on the Air Force Personnel Center's reenlistment Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/CJR.htm>.

New reading list

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Officials have announced the new Chief of Staff of the Air Force reading list.

The reading list focuses on history and heritage.

The CSAF reading list can be accessed at <http://www.af.mil/library/csafreading> complete with links and book reviews.

The books are also available through Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and Air Force libraries.

Climate survey deadline Wednesday

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Wednesday is the deadline for the 2005 Air Force Climate Survey.

Twenty-nine percent of the Air Force had taken the survey as of Oct. 27.

The survey, which began Oct. 1, gives Air Force people an opportunity to provide honest and productive feedback to Air Force leaders.

Research indicates feedback from all ranks and pay grades is needed to effectively create positive change, said survey officials.

As in previous years, this year's survey contains several layers of safeguards to ensure complete confidentiality. The software employs advanced identity-masking features and strict reporting criteria that protects all respondents.

The survey is available 24 hours a day and can be accessed from either a government or personal computer at <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>.

Mailing care packages

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency process mail for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A letter takes seven to 14 days and a package 14-24 days.

For more information, call 1-800-275-8777 or visit <http://www.usps.com>.

Lackland assists Keesler

Hurricane Hustle raises \$19,500 for Katrina fund

Keesler News staff

More than 3,500 people raised \$19,500 for Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund at Lackland Air Force Base's Hurricane Hustle Oct. 22.

The participants in the 5-kilometer run/walk were ages 10 to 83 and included basic trainees; permanent party personnel; retirees; Defense Department civilians, Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston and Randolph AFB, Texas, personnel, and members from the San Antonio community.

Keesler was presented the money Nov. 9.

Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund is a central location for funds donated from a variety of sources for Keesler military members and civilians who suffered losses during the storm.

To apply, visit the Keesler secure Web site, <https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil> and click on the red Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund icon on the right side of the screen. The brief application asks for personal contact information, rank, unit and an assessment of personal loss and insurance coverage.

All military and civilian members should complete the form, whether they want to receive financial donations or not," because responses will be used as historical data to determine the actual number of Keesler people who had losses and the extent of their losses.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier at the family support center, 377-2179.

American Legion

Current American Legion members who are active-duty members or belong to the National Guard or Reserves impacted by Hurricane Katrina may qualify for cash grants up to \$1,500. Apply by phone, 1-800-433-3318, or online, <http://www.legion.org>.

American Red Cross

Any permanent party resident living in the Hurricane



Courtesy photo

A flight of basic trainees run during Lackland's Hurricane Hustle Oct. 22, which raised more than \$19,000

for Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. More than 3,500 people participated in the event.

Katrina disaster area and not receiving subsistence-in-kind is entitled to a Hurricane Katrina check voucher. To verify eligibility and determine entitlement amounts, call 1-800-975-7585.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows are required to complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

Checks are written to the person or company providing the repair or service. Hurricane-related requests are decided on a case-by-case basis, and the customer is asked to provide supporting documentation, such as written estimates for tree removal, home repairs and proof of insurance deductibles.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings state-

ments to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore. About 150 people may still be receiving BAH who shouldn't.

The housing office is located at Chapel One east of the dental clinic.

BAS

A Sept. 27 Department of Defense memo authorizes Airmen assigned to Keesler to receive free meals without a reduction in their basic allowance for subsistence for 60 days to lessen financial hardship due to the hurricane.

Bus transportation

Coast Transit Authority is offering free transportation on the following fixed routes.

Pascagoula-Gautier Route 80 runs 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. For more information, call 875-8070.

Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville and Ocean Springs routes run 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information call 896-8080.

Specialized medical transportation is also available on this route at the same times and days. For more information call 896-4010.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call all Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml>.

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Civilian employees may also donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can

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be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Diploma replacement

Students who want to replace diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force or professional military education lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

Extended child care

Military and civilians affected who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

FEMA

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the areas can apply for federal assistance by registering online with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov>, or by calling 1-800-621-3362, or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24/7.

Food stamps

The disaster food stamp program and supplemental benefits have been extended for November for Harrison and Hancock counties.

As of Monday, the federal government hadn't decided if benefits would be extended to Jackson County residents, but the governor has directed the Department of Human Services to file the necessary paperwork to get the extension.

For more information, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>.

Government travel card

The government travel card, for official travel expenses while in a travel status, isn't authorized for use at Keesler.

Personnel who lost their card during the storm must report the loss and request a

new card immediately.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of government travel card accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit. Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Income tax relief

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 postpones deadlines for affected taxpayers to file tax returns, pay taxes and perform other time-sensitive acts until Feb. 28.

Taxpayers who need to identify themselves as hurricane victims should write "Hurricane Katrina" in red ink at the top of their tax forms or any other documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

Deadline postponement, interest suspension and waiver of penalties apply to any tax return, payment or deposit with an original or extended due date falling on or after Aug. 29.

In Florida, where Katrina first hit, the date is on or after Aug. 24. For victims of Hurricane Rita, deadlines were also extended to Feb. 28.

To take advantage of the act's benefits, taxpayers must file itemized returns, said Dick Brock of the legal office.

For more information, call the IRS, 1-866-562-5227 or visit the agency's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>.

Keesler Attic

The family support center's Keesler Attic has a bulletin board to advertise donated fur-

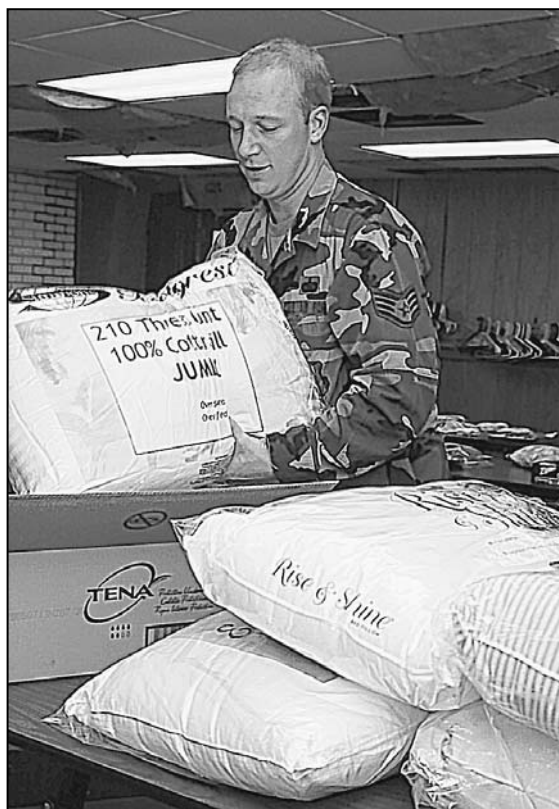


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Bryan Henry, 336th Training Squadron, unloads pillows at the family support center's Keesler Attic Nov. 10. Sergeant Henry's mom, Cindy White of Lewistown, Pa., the Juniata Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mifflin/Juniata County Realtor Board, Lewistown Rotary Club and families in his hometown donated supplies for Keesler's hurricane victims. Keesler's Attic is in Chapel One.

niture for use by active duty victims of Hurricane Katrina. Email a description of items to be donated and a digital picture if possible.

Include your name, phone number and contact information.

The information is posted in the attic, located in Chapel One, east of the dental clinic.

For more information, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592 or 228-860-8681.

Natural disaster form

The Air Force Personnel Readiness Center's natural disaster registration form at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>, is for evacuation and safe haven information.

For more information, call 1-800-435-9941.

OneSource

Air Force OneSource offers 24/7 support and advice on how to tap into resources available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Air Force Aid Society and American Red Cross. Call 1-800-707-5784 or visit <http://www.airforceonesource.com>. Use "airforce" as user ID and "ready" as password.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and bank-

ing information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Salvation Army

For assistance, visit <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>.

SBA

The Small Business Administration is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations that received hurricane damage. The SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing.

The SBA recommends not waiting to settle with your insurance company before applying for disaster loan assistance.

For more information, call 1-800-659-2955 daily from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., email questions to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.

SGLI

The Department of Defense extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Maximum SGLI coverage increased to \$400,000 on Sept. 1. On that date, members eligible for SGLI were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI, which continues under previously existing elections.

Those who wish to keep the \$400,000 of coverage with the same beneficiary designations as before Sept. 1 don't need to take any action. If members wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 — September 2005 version — at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> indicating the amount of coverage desired.

Base facilities update

Lunch meals affected by closing of Magnolia

By Senior Airman
Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

Magnolia Dining Facility is closed for "critical maintenance," according to Col. Bruce Bush, 81st Mission Support Group commander.

Until further notice, lunch meals in all dining facilities are provided only to military personnel with meal cards, at Keesler on temporary duty orders and those normally authorized to eat in these facilities.

Civilians, other than those displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, aren't authorized to use the dining facilities during the lunch meal.

Azalea Dining Facility is limited to serving only non-prior service students for all meals, the colonel added.

Monday, the Army Air Force Exchange Service is reopening the shoppette on Meadows Drive at the Class Six-Four Seasons store.

The store has toys, family clothing, holiday decorations and gift items.

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

These base facilities are open:

81st Services Division

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. The car wash is open 24 hours a day.

Child development center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Space is available at the center and for the preschool program. For more information, call 377-2211.

Family child care — five providers are currently accepting children in their homes. Children are also being accepted at the mildly ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the family

child care office, 377-5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

McBride Library — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

Fax service and copy machine available for a nominal fee; videos and DVD movies, and free Internet service are available.

Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Information, ticket and travel office — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for senior airmen and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Wood shop — 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. Planers and drum sanders aren't available at this time.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

Bay Breeze Golf Course, Triangle Fitness Center, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior Lounge and Keesler Community Center are closed.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Service bays close at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 432-2404.

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Street.

Welch Auditorium — movies shown 7 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette, Class Six/shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

David Macklin, AAFES employee, nails AAFES' signature blue border around the top of the old shoppette on Meadows Drive. The facility is being renovated to become a one-stop shop for the holidays.

Banking

BancorpSouth — base branch open for limited service, 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday. Drive-up and mini-mall automatic teller machines are operational. Safe deposit box access available, as well as teller window services, but no customer service desk or account opening.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open for limited service, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Base branch is operating in an off-line mode, but can handle cash withdrawals or checks up to \$400 per person per day. New accounts can be opened for base personnel and temporary tenants such as the Red Cross.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Mini-mall

Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

CZee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily in the mini-mall.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Moves

Area Defense Counsel — Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student

Please see **Facilities**, Page 15

Some landlords take advantage of storm

Legal office

When a hurricane causes major damage to rental properties, some landlords may try to take advantage of tenants.

Landlords may increase rent, collect rent when the tenant isn't required to pay it or illegally evict the tenant from the rental property in order to raise the rent.

Things to watch include:

If a lease is for a specified term, the landlord can't raise the rent until the lease term expires, unless otherwise stated in the lease.

A landlord may reason-

ably raise the rent to cover the increased cost of utilities, but only if the landlord pays those utilities.

If a rental property is destroyed or made uninhabitable by a hurricane, the landlord isn't entitled to rent for the period the rental is uninhabitable. Rental property with significant mold, water, roof or other structural damage may be uninhabitable.

If so, the landlord may direct the tenant to vacate the property while it's repaired.

Once the property is repaired, the tenant may either resume living there subject to the original lease or terminate the lease and move out. The tenant need not enter into a new lease.

Although ordered to

evacuate, the tenant must continue to pay rent unless the property was made uninhabitable by the hurricane.

The tenant should pay rent until the property became uninhabitable.

Eviction occurs when the landlord forces the tenant to permanently vacate the property.

Landlords must follow very strict procedures to evict a tenant.

Although the landlord may direct the tenant to leave in order to make required repairs, the tenant may return once the repairs are complete, unless the lease has expired.

Some people have found their personal belongings outside after returning from an evacuation. Generally, this type of action isn't permitted.

While landlords are required to give a tenant adequate notice to remove personal property from the rental property, it doesn't always happen. If this occurs, salvage what you can and photograph and document the damage.

Ask your insurance company and the landlord for compensation.

If a service member believes he's been a victim of illegal rental increase, rent collection or eviction, he should obtain all records, receipts, leases or other evidence possible.

For more information, visit the legal office, second floor, Levitow Training Support Facility, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Facilities,

from Page 14

office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, there's an annex with supplies for all ranks and base civilians including clothes, food, baby items and cleaning supplies. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon. For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — The personal financial management program is now located in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian per-

sonnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — TMO for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813; outbound counselors, 377-7815; outbound documentation, 377-2326; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

Pets

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for over-the-counter sales. For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Self-help store

The self-help store is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for housing residents and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 377-5397.

Medical services – what's available, what's not

The status of medical services as the recovery from Hurricane Katrina continues:

The family practice clinic has converted to an appointment-based system. The appointment line, 377-8819, opens at 5:30 a.m. for active duty and 7 a.m. for retirees and dependents. The line is open until 5 p.m. Clinic hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday in Pods C and E at the dental clinic. The staff sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. A case management and social worker are also available in the clinic. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available.

Medical records are available in the Wylie Auditorium at the medical center.

Flu vaccine is expected to be available this month. Flu shots are given to active-duty military first, followed by people at higher risk, such as the elderly and those with chronic diseases, followed by everybody else as long as vaccine remains.

The first aid station, 377-0500, is on the west side of the hospital on the ground level. The 911 line is operational. The first aid station serves active-duty military and their dependents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. True emergencies are transported off base by ambulance. Emergency services aren't available in the first aid station.

The Triangle clinic, 377-1008, is in the Levitow Training Support Facility. Only non-prior service students are seen for acute and urgent care.

Internal medicine, 377-4630 and 4590, is in the dental clinic's Pod D. The clinic sees active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services provided are walk-in acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

Endocrine and dermatology services are available on a walk-in basis in the fast-track hallway of the first aid station.

Pediatrics, 377-5296 and 6543, is in Pods G and H for Tricare Prime enrollees under age 18. The staff provides walk-in acute medical care, well-baby visits, Q-code exams and exceptional

family member program/special needs identification. Allergy services aren't available yet.

The immunization clinic, in the dental clinic, offers well-baby immunizations.

The flight surgeon office, 377-6668, is in dental clinic Pod I and treats active-duty flyers and their dependents. They furnish walk-in acute medical care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and PHAs. Optometry services are available on a walk-in basis.

Mental health, life skills, family advocacy, including EFMP, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services are available in dental clinic Pod A to serve active duty and Prime enrollees with urgent care behavioral interventions. Phone numbers are 377-7006 and 6216.

Surgical services, 377-6495, is available only for consultations. The office is on the west side of the medical center on the ground floor next to the first aid station. Since Keesler has no operating room capability, urgent surgical requirements are being referred off base.

The women's health clinic, 377-6920, is on the west side of the medical center on the ground floor next to the first aid station for routine women's health care. Dysplasia patients are contacted by letter for referral off-base as needed for follow-up.

Dental services, 377-4510, at the dental clinic include routine care and cleanings for active-duty members only. Dental emergency care is provided for active-duty members, dependents and retirees. Services include radiology, laboratory and education and training.

Radiology, 377-9821, provides chest and extremity films in the dental clinic and first aid station and ultrasound at the first-aid station.

The lab has staff in the clinical research laboratory and the fast track corridor in the first aid station. The laboratory provides routine chemistries, blood work, Pap smears and cultures.

Life support classes are in the bioenvironmental engineering building. Patients requiring advanced cardiac and advanced pediatric life support are sent off-base for recertification.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

From left, John Kokulis, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) James Dougherty and Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Peach Taylor survey damage to Keesler Medical Center's outpatient clinic entrance by Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Kokulis, deputy assistant secretary of defense for financial management, and General Taylor, Air Force surgeon general, toured the facility and were briefed by General Dougherty, 81st Medical Group commander, on the status of medical services at Keesler Nov. 8.

Tricare at Keesler

Assistance locations

Carolyn James, beneficiary counseling assistance coordinator, and **Ann Larkin**, Humana beneficiary services representative, Room 69J, dental clinic, or call 377-6580, or cell phone 1-228-596-5931.

Pat Poling, medical and dental registration and eligibility, front desk, dental clinic.

Linda Davis, beneficiary counseling assistance coordinator, clinical research laboratory, 377-3150.

Civilian PCMs

Beneficiaries with civilian primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River, south Mississippi and southwestern Alabama need referrals.

Military PCMs

Beneficiaries with military primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River and south Mississippi don't need referrals until Dec. 1. This includes care at other locations where they may be staying temporarily. Blanket referrals may be eliminated as conditions improve, so beneficiaries are advised to re-establish contact with their PCMs.

To minimize potential problems and to reassure the providers they may see during this interim period, beneficiaries are advised to encourage their provider to call Humana at 1-800-444-5445. Beneficiaries may also use the online resources at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or <http://www.humana-military.com> to find providers in other locations.

Pharmacy

Patients in the immediate area call the Keesler pharmacy's automated prescription refill system, 377-6360.

Other Mississippi patients, call 1-800-443-6564.

From Alabama, Florida and Louisiana, call 1-800-422-9291.

Refills are sent from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to the Keesler pharmacy at the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center for pickup at Building 5. Enter the VA grounds on Veterans Avenue. Continue through the three-way stop. Building 5 is on right.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Allow four days from activation to pickup.

Patients must present their current, valid military identification. Those picking up prescriptions for someone else must provide written authorization.

For more information

Keesler Tricare questions — 377-3150 or 6580.

Humana Tricare questions — 1-800-444-5445.

DOD extends health benefit for families of reservists

Air Force Print News

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The Tricare Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit due to end Oct. 31, has been extended through Oct. 31, 2007.

The Department of Defense extended the benefit for an additional two years to ensure continuity of care for family members of approximately 170,000 National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of Operations Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Waives deductible

The demonstration waives the Tricare annual deductible for family members who use Tricare Extra or Standard; waives the pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals; and authorizes Tricare to pay non-participating providers up to 115 percent of the Tricare maximum allowable charge.

"The demonstration makes it less expensive for these family members to continue seeing their usual doctors if they take Tricare," said Steve Lillie, deputy chief of Tricare operations.

"The demonstration does not apply to families who enroll in Tricare Prime since there are no deductibles or cost shares for referred care in Tricare Prime," he said.

Tricare resources

For assistance or information, National Guard and Reserve members and family members may use the Tricare Yellow Pages at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/yellowpages> to contact their Tricare regional contractor.

Up-to-date Tricare information is also available on the Tricare Web site, <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve>.

Retirees can re-enroll in Survivor Benefit Plan

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials announced recently that military retirees, who opted out of some or all their Survivor Benefit Plan coverage, have another opportunity to elect coverage.

A one-year open enrollment period began Monday and runs through Sept. 30, 2006.

Upon a retiree's death, the plan provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of military retired pay. Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse age 62 or older was reduced to 35 percent to reflect the availability of Social Security benefits. This reduction phases out by April 2008, and the full 55-percent benefit paid regardless of the spouse's age in accordance with the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Current non-participants are able to elect any coverage they could've elected previously upon retiring from active service or upon receiving notification of eligibility for Reserve retired pay at age 60.

If they have a reduced election, they may increase their coverage. A participant with child-only coverage may add a spouse or former spouse to their coverage, and a person may add child coverage to spouse or former spouse coverage.

But those who took coverage and later elected to terminate it aren't eligible to make an open enrollment election.

Open enrollment elections require a lump sum buy-in premium, as well as future monthly premiums. The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original

eligibility to make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund. The latter amount applies almost exclusively to those paying fewer than seven years of back payments.

The lump sum buy-in premium can be paid over a two-year period. Monthly premiums for spouse or former spouse coverage are 6.5 percent of the coverage elected, the same premium paid by those currently enrolled. Reserve component members under age 60 and not yet eligible for retired pay don't pay back premiums or interest, but must pay a monthly plan premium "add-on" once their retired pay starts.

Elections are effective the first day of the month after the election is received, but no earlier than Oct. 1. An election is void if the retiree dies in the

two years following an election and all premiums are refunded to the designated survivor.

To make an open enrollment election, a retiree can complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, "Survivor Benefit Plan and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Open Enrollment Election." The form is available electronically at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf>.

For assistance with the form, contact the retiree activities office.

Retirees can mail the completed form to the address specified on the form. Applicants are formally notified of their cost and have 30 days from the date of the notice to cancel the election by notifying the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or the reserve component, as applicable, in writing.

KEESLER NOTES

Squadron function

The 81st Mission Support Squadron closes at noon Friday for an official function.

Military personnel flight customer service remains open with minimal staffing.

GriefShare

GriefShare Support Group meetings resume, 11 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Larcher Chapel.

For more information, call Glenda Woodard, 377-5032, or Chaplain (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2761.

Toastmasters

The At Eze Toastmasters Club is meeting again, noon Tuesdays in the Building 1101 conference room.

Toastmasters is a communications and leadership building program designed to help people lose their fear of public speaking and learn skills helpful in achieving professional success.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Fitting gas masks

Gas masks are fit tested 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Building 420, east of Fisher House on Fisher Street.

Preschool program

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5-year-olds in the 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. sessions.

Classes are Mondays through working Fridays at the youth center. They're suspended on federal holidays and during Christmas holiday closings observed by coast schools.

Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.

KOSC activities

For information on Keesler Officers Spouses Club activities, call Michelle Harper, 327-6848.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Bowl prep



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Adrian Sevilla, left, 338th Training Squadron, tries to stay inbounds while making a catch as David Nuckles, 338th TRS, defends during a practice Tuesday. The practice was for the first Turkey Bowl, a double-elimination flag football tournament which began Tuesday. The tournament marks the first flag football action at Keesler since Hurricane Katrina caused damage to many of the base's sports and recreational facilities. The tournament's championship game is Tuesday.

Academy lineman selected for Hula Bowl

Air Force Print News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Academy senior offensive lineman Ross Weaver has been selected to play in the Hula Bowl all-star football game.

The game is Jan. 21, 2006, at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. The Hula Bowl is one of the annual all-star games played after the end of the college football season.

Only seniors are invited to play as National Football League coaches are at the game scouting players for the annual April NFL draft.

Weaver is the 33rd Falcon to be selected for

the Hula Bowl since 1964. He's the seventh offensive lineman and the first since Ben Miller in 2001.

Weaver is third on the team in knockdown blocks this season and helped Air Force achieve a top 10 national ranking in rushing with a 244.9 yard per-game average.

A native of Parker, Colo., Weaver is a three-year letterman and a two-year starter for Air Force.

The Falcons play their final game Saturday against Mountain West Conference opponent University of New Mexico.

Blake Fitness Center towel policy is one-for-one trade

81st Services Division

Under the Blake Fitness Center one-for-one towel policy, customers are required to turn in a towel to receive a clean towel each time they visit a fitness center.

The requirements are that patrons must provide their first towel.

It must be new or in "like new" condition, 22 inches by 44 inches, white, with no stains, markings, logos or tears.

After customers have used the towel, they turn it in to the fitness center staff and receive a clean towel to be used on their next visit to the center.

Only one towel can be exchanged per visit.

As a one-time courtesy, temporary duty guests have the option of participating in the towel exchange or "borrowing" a towel in exchange for their driver's license or other form of picture identification.

They get their ID back



Photo by Kemberly Groue
James Rainey, left, 81st Services Division, turns in a towel to Senior Airman Justin Holt, 81st SVD, at Blake Fitness Center Nov. 10.

when the towel is returned.

All customers continue to have the option of using the towel laundry service or bringing and using their own towels.

For more information, call 377-4385.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

11th Frame snack bar— inside Gaudin Lanes, open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays for lunch only, and Monday-Friday, 5-9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 3-9:30 p.m.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court area isn't available.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Intramurals

Turkey Bowl — flag football double-elimination tournament continues Monday; championship game Tuesday. For more information, call James Grubb, 377-409, or e-mail james.grubb2@keesler.af.mil. All other intramural sport are cancelled until further notice.

Outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation is located in Building 6734, the enclosed pavilion in marina park.

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for staff sergeants and above in the main marina building, opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Youth activities center

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Aaron Andrus, Matthew Bauman, Nicholas Bishop, Joseph Bliss, Nathan Breen, Steven Brumley, Jason Buttacavoli, Daniel Carr, John-Cory Edmiston, Buddy Franklin, Johathan Gonzalez, Derek Gordon, Mitchell Haas, Colin Hoffer, Kristina Hyltuft, Joshua Jenkins, David Jones, Morgan Littleton, Jonathan Lungren, Christopher Mahoney, Keith Martincic, Matthew Metzger, Ryan Middleton, Robert Miller, Christopher Nichols, David Palmiter, Alan Peterson, Ryan Stine, Kenneth Townsend, Zachary Waldon and Daniel Wegman; Airmen Benjamin Halaszynski, David Johnson, James Little, Matthew McCurtain and Joseph Skopic; Senior Airman Kelly Finn; Airmen 1st Class Paul Amasol, Daniel Canby, Patrick Crawford, Kenneth Dietrich, Ansil Howard, Jeremy James, Matthew Marentette, Jose Navarro, David Nicholson, Michael Perkins, Eric Ratajczak, Jordan Sanchez, Bryan Stephens, Alexander Tomtschik, Timothy Veal, Matthew Wickham and Thomas Wright; Staff Sgts. Dante Adams, Joshua Birch and Ismael Lopez.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Amanda Baty, Ervin Beenum, Jonathan Brooks, Adam Bruns, Lindsay Dulley, Ross Facer, Elke Fromm, Jeremy Gilmore, William Gray, Steven Holland, Jonathan Huffine, Lauren Kirsch, David Lacy, Stephanie Lamberth, Monika Sanches, Jerod Sandry and Meagan Wilson; Airman Evan Osborne; Airmen 1st Class Melba Boyd, Justin Carbone, Daniel Morton, Samuel Parker and Andrew Rupert.

335th TRS

Weather training flight — Navy Airmen Recruit Elizabeth Brockman, Nicole Tzstuck and Jessica Wasserman; Marine Pvt. Kurt Wensmann; Navy Airman Apprentice Melissa Springer and Navy Airman Benjamin Wells.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Thanksgiving Day

Editor's note: Hours for these base facilities reflect changes in observance of the Thanksgiving Day federal holiday, Nov. 24. Any exchange facilities not listed are closed.

Triangle mini-mail — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 25.

Furniture store — closed Nov. 24; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 25.

Service station — gas, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

Nov. 25.

Military clothing sales — closed Nov. 24-25.

Dawg Daze Hot Dogs — closed Nov. 24; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 25.

Subway — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 25.

General Nutrition Center — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25.

Triangle barber shop — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 25.

Triangle beauty shop — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 25.

Triangle laundry/cleaners — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25.

Military Rent-All — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25.

Enterprise Car Rental — closed Nov. 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Classes haven't resumed yet.

First Term Airmen Center

Classes scheduled to resume in January.

Keesler NCO Academy

Current class runs through Dec. 16 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

PROMOTIONS

2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

Dec. 5-16 — major line, CHAR, JAG, BSC, MSC.

TRANSITIONS

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.blue.togray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efit/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/jobfair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including jobs from public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

Computer use

Government computers — commanders may authorize their use for the preparation of personal resumes by people separating or retiring from the service on an "as available" basis as long as use of the equipment for the purpose doesn't adversely affect the mission.

Transition employment opportunities public folder — go to e-mail "public folders" and click on "transition employment opportunities" for job opportunities for active duty and family members. For more information, call 377-8592 or 8593.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies at Welch Auditorium

Editor's note: Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., Two for the Money (R).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Serenity (PG-13); 7 p.m., Lord of War (R).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Into the Blue (PG-13).

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven-fried fish, Cantonese spare ribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, baked macaroni and cheese, noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, country style tomato salad, jellied spring salad, hearty vegetable soup, Italian wedding soup, chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, oven-brown potatoes, rice, gravy, califlower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, Polish sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.